

## Health Alert Network Information Technology Capacity Inventory

Purpose: The purpose of this inventory is to assist state Health Alert Network (HAN) directors to assess the capacity of local health departments in their state as it relates to the HAN architectural standards. The information will be useful for program planning and development of the Health Alert Network.

The following questions refer to the capacity of the public health **Emergency Response Coordinator** (ERC) of the local health jurisdiction. The ERC is the person who would lead the local health department's efforts in the event of a bioterrorism incident ( e.g., the health officer, the LHD director, the environmental health director, etc.). The actual title of this person will vary from locality to locality.

1. Name of State \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name of Local Health Jurisdiction (or HAN "node" serving a cluster of local health jurisdictions) \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Computing and Internet Connectivity

3. Does the ERC have a computer at work (e.g., primary or exclusive use of a computer)?  
**9**yes **9**no (if no, skip to **Broadcast of Health Alerts**)
4. Does the ERC have a CD-ROM reader on his/her computer at work?  
**9**yes **9**no
5. Does the ERC have Internet e-mail on his/her computer at work?  
**9**yes **9**no (if no, skip to Question #9)
6. Does the ERC (or someone they authorize) check his/her e-mail at work at least once each workday?  
**9**yes **9**no
- 7.\* Has the Internet e-mail system for this jurisdiction failed for more than 5 consecutive working hours during the last month (excluding scheduled down time)?  
**9**yes **9**no
- 8.\* Was the Internet e-mail system repaired within 1 working day the last time it failed?  
**9**yes **9**no

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*\*Information systems technical staff in the local jurisdiction should be consulted for assistance in providing information on technical issues (e.g., questions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14).*

- 9.\* Does the ERC have an Internet connection of at least 56 kbps speed to his/her desktop?  
**9yes 9no**
- 10.\* Does the ERC have **continuous** Internet access at work (e.g., “always on,” not dial-up)?  
**9yes 9no**
- 11.\* Has the Internet connection for this jurisdiction failed for more than 5 consecutive working hours during the last month (excluding scheduled down time)?  
**9yes 9no**
- 12.\* Was the Internet connection for this jurisdiction repaired within 1 working day the last time it failed?  
**9yes 9no**
13. Can the ERC browse the World Wide Web from his/her computer at work?  
**9yes 9no**
- 14.\* Does this browser meet HAN specifications (Netscape Communicator 4.07 or newer or Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.04 or newer)?  
**9yes 9no**

### **Broadcast of Health Alerts**

This section contains information on the capabilities of local health jurisdictions to rapidly receive health alerts from their state, and to broadcast urgent health alerts to specific groups in their communities (e.g., local health care providers, hospital emergency department personnel, first responders, infection control specialists, et al.) that have been identified by the local health jurisdiction as key partners in responding to urgent health threats. The health alert system may employ broadcast fax, cellular telephones, e-mail, pagers, or other appropriate technologies.

The next three items pertain to the capacity of local health jurisdictions to **receive** urgent health alerts from the **state health department**.

15. Can your local health jurisdiction **receive** urgent health alerts from the state health department within 1 working day?  
**9yes 9no** (if no, skip to the introduction to Question #18)

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16. Has the state used or tested the health alert system within the past 3 months?  
**9**yes **9**no
17. By what technology (or technologies) do you **receive** health alerts from your state health department? (*Check all that apply*)
- ☐ Telephone (individual call)
  - ☐ Auto-dial (computer-generated telephone call)
  - ☐ Fax
  - ☐ E-mail
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ None

The next five items pertain to the capacity of **local health jurisdictions** to rapidly **broadcast** urgent health alerts to specific groups in their communities.

For the following questions, health alert broadcast capability is defined as:

- a system in which the alert message is likely to reach all intended recipients within one workday;
- a system that can reach all intended recipients without requiring an extraordinary diversion of staff (e.g., not one fax machine, hand-fed dozens of times);
- a system pre-configured with one or more lists of likely recipient groups (e.g., local health care providers, hospital emergency department personnel, first responders, infection control specialists).

18. Does the local health jurisdiction have a system for **broadcasting** health alerts to targeted community groups?  
**9**yes **9** no (*if no, skip the remaining items of this inventory*)
19. What technology (or technologies) does the local health jurisdiction currently use to broadcast health alerts? (*check all that apply*)
- ☐ Telephone (individual call)
  - ☐ Auto-dial (computer-generated telephone call)
  - ☐ Regular fax
  - ☐ Broadcast fax
  - ☐ E-mail
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ None
20. Can the system be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if necessary?  
**9**yes **9**no

21. Has someone tested or used the system to send health alerts to members of the community within the last 3 months?  
☒yes ☒no
22. Is the system adequately maintained (at least 1 person assigned to maintain the list of community health alert recipients and the list updated at least quarterly)?  
☒yes ☒no